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Mel Elfin, ~~Director of Planning~~ Editor, Special Reports

MEL ELFIN

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND SPECIAL REPORTS

Mel Elfin, Director of Planning and Special Reports at U.S.News & World Report, is currently editing the magazine's national news section. He joined U.S.News in October, 1986, after a 28-year career at Newsweek where he served as Bureau Chief for almost two decades, a Washington record for longevity in such a high-level editorial position. Elfin participated in the coverage of almost all the major news events of the past 20 years, and privately has interviewed each of the past five Presidents. In 1972, he was among a handful of journalists who accompanied Richard Nixon on both his historic trips that year—to China in February and to the first summit meeting in Moscow in the spring.

Born and raised in New York City, Elfin was graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University in 1951 and the following year received an M.A. in American history from Harvard. He served as an intelligence officer in the Strategic Air Command during the Korean War and after his discharge completed his credits toward a doctoral degree at the New School in New York. Elfin began his career at the Long Island Daily Press where he served as assistant city editor. While at the Press, Elfin won a 1957 George Polk Award for a series that led to a legislative crackdown on a racket in second mortgages. At U.S. News, he edited the magazine's recent books Oliver North and A Guide to America's Best Colleges. He is a frequent guest on TV news panels.

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